

WEEKLY STATESMAN.

COUNTY ROADS AND CONVICTS

A communication published in THE STATESMAN yesterday, signed with the initials "D. A. T.," on the subject of county roads, suggests that the county should have teams, wagons, plows, scrapers—in a word, every implement and appliance necessary to the expeditious conduct of work on the roads, meaning county roads. His first suggestion is that a practical business man should be appointed superintendent of roads by the county commissioners, and that he should be furnished with these teams and thirty men to do the work, and also camp equipage for the necessary transient home of himself and the hands under him.

The suggestions of this correspondent are well worthy of consideration and adoption, but the same correspondent closes by saying he favors "convict labor on the roads, which would lessen the cost greatly."

"D. A. T." does not exaggerate the importance to the prosperity of the business men of a county in having good roads, so that at all times, and in all weather, the county town may be accessible from every part of the county.

The second suggestion, as to the employment of convict labor, is a subject within itself, and, in this connection, deserves elaboration. There is no more delicate and difficult problem for solution by statesmen and philanthropists, than the question of convict labor.

The object of the law, in its penalties, is not for the purpose of revenge, that belongs to the barbaric period, when the murderer was followed in his flight to the temple of refuge by the relations of the murdered, and slain, if caught before he grasped the horns of the altar, in pure revenge. The law was enacted in a more humane spirit. The execution of a murderer by the law is a sacrifice of the guilty as an example to strike terror into the hearts of evil-doers, in order that wicked and bad men, who are not restrained by higher motives, in contemplation of the certain doom of death, would not dare to repeat the crime.

The more general mode of punishment for crime is incarceration in the state penitentiary, with the double motive in depriving the culprit of his liberty and reforming his nature. No man is imprisoned for stealing merely to revenge the loss to the one stolen from, but to train the thief in honest occupation, and it is just here that statesmanship and philanthropy are embarrassed in action.

It is not right that these criminals should be supported in idleness by the honest classes of society in an increase of taxation for that purpose, neither is it right that free labor should compel the state to enter into competition and reduce the value of the industry of the working artisans of the country. There is a great question for the solution of the statesman. Then comes the philanthropist, and declares that the object of imprisonment being the reformation of the criminal and his restoration to the community as an honest and useful man, that it is impossible to accomplish this if he is permitted to remain idle during his incarceration in prison. He very justly claims that the humanitarian features of justice is destroyed in two ways—first, that idleness fosters crime, and, secondly, that the criminal is not taught any useful occupation, and he returns to the world dependent upon his old criminal habits for a support.

These are all practical and embarrassing questions to decide, and it is impossible to entirely obviate all the difficulties surrounding them, or to inaugurate any system by which all the criminals might have advantages that would not seriously conflict with honest labor, but it seems to us that the conjunction of ideas of our correspondent, "D. A. T.," will at least offer some relief for the antitheses we have fairly constructed.

The greatest difficulty in the reform of criminals is the promiscuous association within the narrow quarters of a prison, where the long and hardened criminal is in intimate and constant association with the timid boy, who has stolen a loaf of bread, perhaps for a sick and starving mother. The boy's heart is against the world before he enters the prison, and he becomes a ready and apt scholar of the accomplished thief, and comes out of prison more dangerous to society and to his own moral nature than when he entered it. Any plan by which these two classes can be separated would advance the means of the humanitarian.

Again, small bodies of men, living under guards, in the open air or tents, in a mild climate, are much more amenable to the influences of reform than a large body of men huddled indiscriminately together within the walls of a prison. Moral and physical health would sooner be attained in the smaller groups outside the walls. Keeping these considerations in the mind, let us consider what employment, at least a part of our penitentiary inmates could be engaged in, that would tend to their reformation, and least conflict with honest labor and at the same time make that part of the criminal classes self supporting.

We think, to some extent, the conjunction of ideas referred to as having been suggested by our correspondent "D. A. T.," has solved the question.

The state of Texas will develop more in the next ten years than it has since the

day it was an independent republic. It can be safely asserted that in the next ten years its population will double, and that the majority of the emigration into the state will be actual settlers on agricultural lands. We must prepare for this emigration by internal improvements.

The county having the best roads will secure the best part of this emigration, all other things being equal. People will come from Europe and the northern states, where roads are always in fine condition. Even now it is important to the merchants of every county town and to every farmer that we have good roads. The emigration coming to Texas in the next ten years will pay one-third more per acre for lands in a county with good roads, than for lands where wagon and carriage transportation is almost impossible.

Then let us adopt the suggestions made by our correspondent. Let the members of the legislature of Travis county have an act passed permitting each county to accept its provisions or not, giving authority to the county commissioners to appoint a supervisor of roads, and authorizing the county to make an appropriation for teams, tents, etc., and also permission to make requisition for any number of convicts necessary to put the roads in perfect repair and keep them so, build bridges, etc., and do all such necessary work.

This would accomplish many desirable ends. It would improve the county, make lands more valuable, have a strong tendency to reform the criminals, and remove the objections to competition with honest labor.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

THE STATESMAN yesterday gave warning that the strikers were concentrating their forces at Parsons, Kas., and Fort Worth, Tex. Gov. Martin, of Kansas, had the eagerness to see the danger, and day before yesterday ordered a regiment of militia to Parsons, which, in all probability, prevented such a collision as described in our dispatches this morning at Fort Worth, where the sheriff's officers, in attempting to run a train, were fired upon by the mob, no doubt composed of strikers, two of his men were killed and one wounded. The fire was returned and the strikers were scattered.

It has been perfectly apparent for the last forty-eight hours that the strikers were massing at two points, Parsons, Kansas, and Fort Worth, Texas. The regiment, ordered by Governor Martin to Parsons, have preserved order there so far as heard from at this writing. The question then arises, who is responsible for this bloody work at Fort Worth yesterday? We freely admit that in ordinary times it is not the place of the governor of a state to order troops to aid the sheriff of a county in the execution of the law, until he is informed by the sheriff that he is not able, with his "posse comitatus," to quell the riot and protect property, but this was not an ordinary occasion. It was apparent day before yesterday, to every sensible man acquainted with the facts, that if something was not done to prevent it, that a conflict would take place at Fort Worth yesterday, and whether the forms of law, in all the regularity of red tape, were gone through with or not, it was Governor Ireland's duty to order a concentration of militia at Fort Worth to prevent bloodshed. This, we think, was Governor Ireland's plain and imperative duty. It may do very well to say that the law prescribes the manner in which the governor is authorized to order state troops to aid the sheriff of any county to execute the law, and it may do very well on ordinary occasions that a writ should be sued out by a citizen whose rights are invaded, and when put into the hands of the sheriff, and he fails to execute it by reason of a superior force, when he has exhausted the whole power of a county of a "posse comitatus," then he should notify the governor, and then the governor shall order out the militia to aid him to execute the writ. But there are occasions when this form is unnecessary. Is an executive of a state supposed to have no eyes, or ears, that he cannot see, or hear? Is he supposed to have no discretionary power?

If the governor of Texas knew that a cavalry force of Mexicans were marching on the capital city of Texas, does anyone suppose that he is compelled to wait until this same force injured some man's property and he brought suit against them, and the sheriff reported to the governor that he could not execute the writ? We say, does any man suppose a sane governor would wait for all this circumlocution? Certainly not.

If the governor of a state knows that any section of it is threatened with insurrection, he is compelled to wait for an overt act on the part of the mob? If so, we had better have no executive.

Governor Ireland knew day before yesterday morning that a riot was threatening at Fort Worth. He knew that trouble was expected, what was his duty? Nineteenth of the men in the state will say it was his duty to send troops there to prevent it.

Did he do it? Oh no; but what did he do? While a part of the state of Texas was in the hands of a mob, he took the train day before yesterday and went to Seguin.

To-day, gentlemen, with dispatches in their hands, from Governor Brown, the receiver of the Texas Central, from Fort Worth describing an ambushed train by the strikers, near that city, and declaring

the place in the hands of an armed mob, and asking for action on the part of the governor, visited the executive office and found Governor Ireland absent in Seguin. To-day a part of the state is in the hands of the mob, and there is no authority at the state capital to do anything at all. In point of fact, on this, the third day of April, 1886, Texas has no state government, or, rather, it is a peripatetic government, with the governor at so remote a part of the state, that it is doubtful whether he can be communicated with by telegraph. Governor Ireland is not the master of his own movements. It is his duty to be in Austin to-day. We do not believe he left to avoid the responsibility of acting, as we have heard it charged, and which will be charged against him, but we do think it was a fatal mistake in Governor Ireland leaving the capital in such a crisis.

CORSETS MAKE A LADY'S WATCH GO SLOW.

From the Savannah News.

A young lady of Columbus, about to visit the generating station of the electric light company, was told to leave her watch at home, lest it might be magnetized by the strong electric current. She did so, but complained afterward that her watch could not keep good time. She sent it to a jeweler, but he reported that it was not magnetized and kept good time. Still, whenever she carried it her time was too slow, although when she left it in her room it ran correctly. A gentleman who knew of the circumstances suggested to the young lady that she wear another pair of corsets when next she carried the watch. She did so and had no further trouble with the watch. The steel springs in her corsets had been magnetized.

HOT-WATER DRINKERS IN THE HOUSE.

Correspondence of the Boston Herald.

In one of the secluded rooms connected with the house of representatives is a most elaborate washstand, with a nickel plated faucet arising from the centre. During the lunch hour a colored attendant is kept busy washing and wiping delicate glasses which he keeps arranged in perfect order around his washstand. It happened, says a correspondent, to go into this room to-day and saw a sight which is worth describing. A well-known Congressman entered and asked the servant for a glass of water. The attendant turned the wheel of the faucet and filled the glass full of hot water and handed it to him. The member sipped it slowly and while doing so two others came in and went through the same performance. The servant tells me that I would be surprised to know the number of Congressmen who are taking the hot-water cure.

SHREWD UNCLE STEAD'S POOR WOMAN.

Lewiston (Me.) Journal.

"Uncle Stead," is what they called a shrewd old gentleman who used to live in Winthrop, a little way out of the village up the side of the pond, near Roadfield. One of his fellow-citizens was a man named Lovejoy. Uncle Stead met Lovejoy in the village one day, and he said to him: "Lovejoy, there's a poor woman out on the edge of the town that needs some provisions. I'm willing to supply her, but I've sold my horse, and have no means of getting the stuff to her. Now I'll buy her a barrel of flour and a ham and some other supplies if you'll carry them out to her with your team." Lovejoy said certainly, he'd be very glad to do it. Accordingly, Uncle Stead bought a barrel of flour, a ham, a bucket of sugar, etc., and, telling Lovejoy where the woman lived, sent him off on his errand of charity with the good things in his pail. Lovejoy easily found the house where the woman lived. He unloaded the goods, puffing like a grampus as he rolled the barrel of flour in, and said to the woman: "Mr. Steadman sent you the provisions. He's a mighty kind-hearted man to send you all these things." "Well, I don't know why he shouldn't send them to me!" exclaimed the woman in surprised accents. "He's my husband."

TAYLOR.

Special Telegram to the Statesman.

TAYLOR, March 31.—A fire about three o'clock this morning, on the corner of Main and Milan streets, destroyed a two-story frame building, with shed attached, adjoining the brick business house of Melinsky & Goldstein. The losers are as follows: Building belonging to Mrs. A. M. Long, total loss—insured in Southern Insurance company for \$1,000; Shoaf & Bowers, grocery and feed store, nearly a total loss—insured in Hartford for \$1,000; ten buggies in shed room belonging to J. C. Cannon, total loss—insured in St. Paul for \$500. The total loss will amount to something more than insurance.

H. Z. Herrie, formerly of the Stock Yard National bank, of Chicago, and Dr. E. E. of St. Louis, and the Missouri-Pacific railway, have been in Taylor for several days, and in connection with John R. Hoxie, C. H. Welch, and other capitalists, were fixing up organization papers for the purpose of establishing the First National bank, of Midland, on the Texas & Pacific railway. Herrie, and Dr. E. E. left for the north last night for the purpose of completing their arrangements for the institution with the comptroller at Washington, D. C., and John R. Hoxie left for Hot Springs, Ark., to give his constitution another boil out, and recuperate his health sufficiently to give the bulls and bears of Wall street another three million tussle.

The following cableistic sign is chalked up: 4 1

10 x, which means an important meeting of "nights" on April 1, at ten o'clock, lodge 1080.

The supposition is that it is for the purpose of boycotting fleas, before the ladies don white for the summer season. It will doubtless have the same effect on the boycotts which have been instituted by another institution.

Haven't heard of any damage from the recent cold spell in this community.

OUT WEST.

AN AUSTIN MAN'S ACCOUNT OF THE HOSTILES.

Special Telegram to the Statesman.

Fort Bowie, April 1.—The following letter has been received from San Bernardino ranch, Mexico:

We arrived here on Thursday, March 25, after a journey of three days from Fort Bowie. The general had a conference with Geronimo the day we arrived, but he did not get much out of him. The hostiles are encamped about five hundred yards from this camp. He had another

council with a little better result, and to-day he had still another, the result of which is as follows: First, Chihuahua said that he surrendered and laid himself at the general's feet and asked for pity. Then Natchez said that he surrendered, and then Geronimo said he'd surrender, so we've got the whole band unconditionally. We leave to-morrow or next day for Fort Bowie, and Lieutenant Maus will come on with the scouts and hostile. The officers under Lieutenant Maus are jubilant over the prospect of getting back to their homes.

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10:15 a. m.	3:30 p. m.	3:55 a. m.	Cisco	1:05 p. m.	2:10 p. m.	5:10 p. m.	
11:05 a. m.	3:45 p. m.	4:10 a. m.	Morgan	1:10 p. m.	2:15 p. m.	5:05 p. m.	
11:55 a. m.	4:00 p. m.	4:25 a. m.	Waco	1:15 p. m.	2:20 p. m.	5:00 p. m.	
12:45 p. m.	4:15 p. m.	4:40 a. m.	Hearne	1:20 p. m.	2:25 p. m.	4:55 p. m.	
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2:25 p. m.	4:45 p. m.	5:10 a. m.	Brenham	1:30 p. m.	2:35 p. m.	4:45 p. m.	
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